available due to the construction of the dam across Krishna River in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) to (e) NHPC takes up potential projects/sites in different States based on the following considerations:—

(i) consent from the concerned State Government (s) for NHPC to execute this work;

(ii) benefit to several States within and across regions;

(iii) minimum displcement and environmental impact; and

(iv) willingness of the concened State Governments to purchase power.

Conference of State Ministers for Power

878. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Ministers for Power met in the capital recently;

(b) if so, the outcome of the Conference; and

(c) the details of measures contemplated to be taken by Government, in the light of the outcome of the said Conference?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Conference adopted a plan of action called "Power Reforms Initiative". The measures contemplated in this regard are:

(i) Constitution of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions.

(ii) Drawing up of Power Sector Reform Bill by each State/Union Territory.

(iii) Corporatisation of generating companies, transmission companies and distribution companies.

(iv) Reform of the Distribution Sector.

(v) Setting up of Mega Projects.

(vi) Commercial arrangements for payment for power.

(vii) Secruitisation of outstanding dues of Central Public Sector Undertakings.

(viii) Expeditious development of hydel potential.

(ix) Speedy development of National Power Grid.

(x) Action Plan for Energy Conservation.

(xi) Efforts to increase power generation.

(xii) Rationalisation of Electricity tariff for Railways.

Limit of IPFIs in Power Projects

879. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have fixed a limit of 40% for Indian Public Financial Institutions (IPFIs) in power projects based on indigenous equipments;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments have approached the Central Government for relaxing the limit and to exclude funding from Indian Commercial Banks; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The policy announced by the Government in 1991 to encourage greater private participation in the power sector, *inter-alia* stipulated that an amount not exceeding 40% of the total outlay may come from Indian public financial institutions, but the remaining amount should be met from other sources.